

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

Annual Report for 1937 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

30th April, 1938.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

As in previous years, I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

- *DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.
- *DR. MARIE L. P. CRAWFORD, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., M.M.S.A.—Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, also late Assistant Medical Officer, Alexandra Hospital, Swanley.
- *W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.—Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.
- T. PYKE, Assistant Sanitary Inspector (certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and Other Food Inspector).
- *MISS A. A. BRIMBLE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.
- *MISS E. NEALE.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., C.M.B.
Resigned May 31st, 1937.
- *MISS B. HOATHER.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.
Commenced duties 14th June, 1937.
- MISS E. SORRELL.—Clerk to Department.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1937) ...	34,510
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	8,861
Rateable Value	£272,378
... by 1d rate	£1,021

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres.

The district is chiefly an industrial one. The residential area at the west end of the town, in the neighbourhood of The Heath, however, continues to develop, and there is a growing number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District :—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.
 London County Mental Hospital.
 Kent County Council, The County Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are :—

Engineering.	Tanning.
Paper Making.	Silk Printing.
Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

Separate figures with regard to unemployment in the Borough of Dartford are not available. The area served by the Dartford Employment Exchange comprises Dartford Borough, Crayford Urban District and Dartford Rural District. I am informed by the manager that the number of persons registered as unemployed during the year 1937 varied as follows :—

Number registered as unemployed.		Percentage of insured persons in area.
January ...	809	3.7
June ...	442	2.1
December ...	907	4.2

OPEN SPACES.

The District is provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include :—

Dartford Heath	340 acres.
Central Park	27 acres.
Hesketh Park	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1937.

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	270	247	517
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	8	5	13
						278	252	530

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	15.35
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period	...	...	...	...	14.9

Still Births.—Number of still births during the year...						...	...	20
Rate per 1,000 total births						...	...	36.36

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	166	146	312
	Death Rate per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.04
Death Rate for England and Wales for the year						...	...	12.4
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-								
From Sepsis						...	...	None
Other Causes						...	...	3

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Infantile Mortality.	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	15	8	23
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
						16	10	26

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	49.05
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1937	...	...	...	...	58

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	7	...	...	3	10	8	5	2	1	26
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not tuberculous)		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis		...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)		...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	1	6
Enteritis		...	...	...	1	1	1	3	1	...	6
Congenital malformation		...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	3
Premature Birth		5	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other Causes		2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3
Totals		7	...	...	3	10	8	5	2	1	26

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEARS 1936-1937.

Causes of Death.	1936.		1937.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Female
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ... ..	...	...	...	...
2. Measles. ... ..	...	...	...	...
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...
4. Whooping Cough.	1	1	...	...
5. Diphtheria. ... ..	...	...	...	1
6. Influenza.	3	...	3	5
7. Encephalitis lethargica. ... ..	...	1	...	...
8. Cerebro-spinal fever. ... ..	...	...	...	1
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	5	8	14	7
10. Other tuberculous diseases.	2	1	1	...
11. Syphilis. ... ..	...	1	...	...
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis.	...	...	2	...
13. Cancer, malignant disease.	22	23	17	20
14. Diabetes.	2	4	...	4
15. Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	5	5	10	5
16. Heart disease.	39	42	38	44
17. Aneurism.	2	...	3	...
18. Other circulatory diseases.	11	5	13	16
19. Bronchitis.	6	13	6	5
20. Pneumonia (all forms).	13	5	10	9
21. Other respiratory diseases.	3	1	4	...
22. Peptic ulcer.	3	...	4	...
23. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).	5	1	3	3
24. Appendicitis.	2	2	...	...
25. Cirrhosis of liver. ... ..	...	...	...	...
26. Other diseases of liver, etc. ... ..	...	...	...	...
27. Other digestive diseases.	7	2	5	3
28. Acute and chronic nephritis.	3	8	2	...
29. Puerperal sepsis. ... ..	...	2	...	...
30. Other puerperal causes. ... ..	...	...	...	3
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	3	6	7	4
32. Senility.	1	1	1	3
33. Suicide.	5	1	1	1
34. Other violence.	9	5	9	4
35. Other defined diseases.	17	10	13	8
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...
Totals	169	148	166	146

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1933—1937.

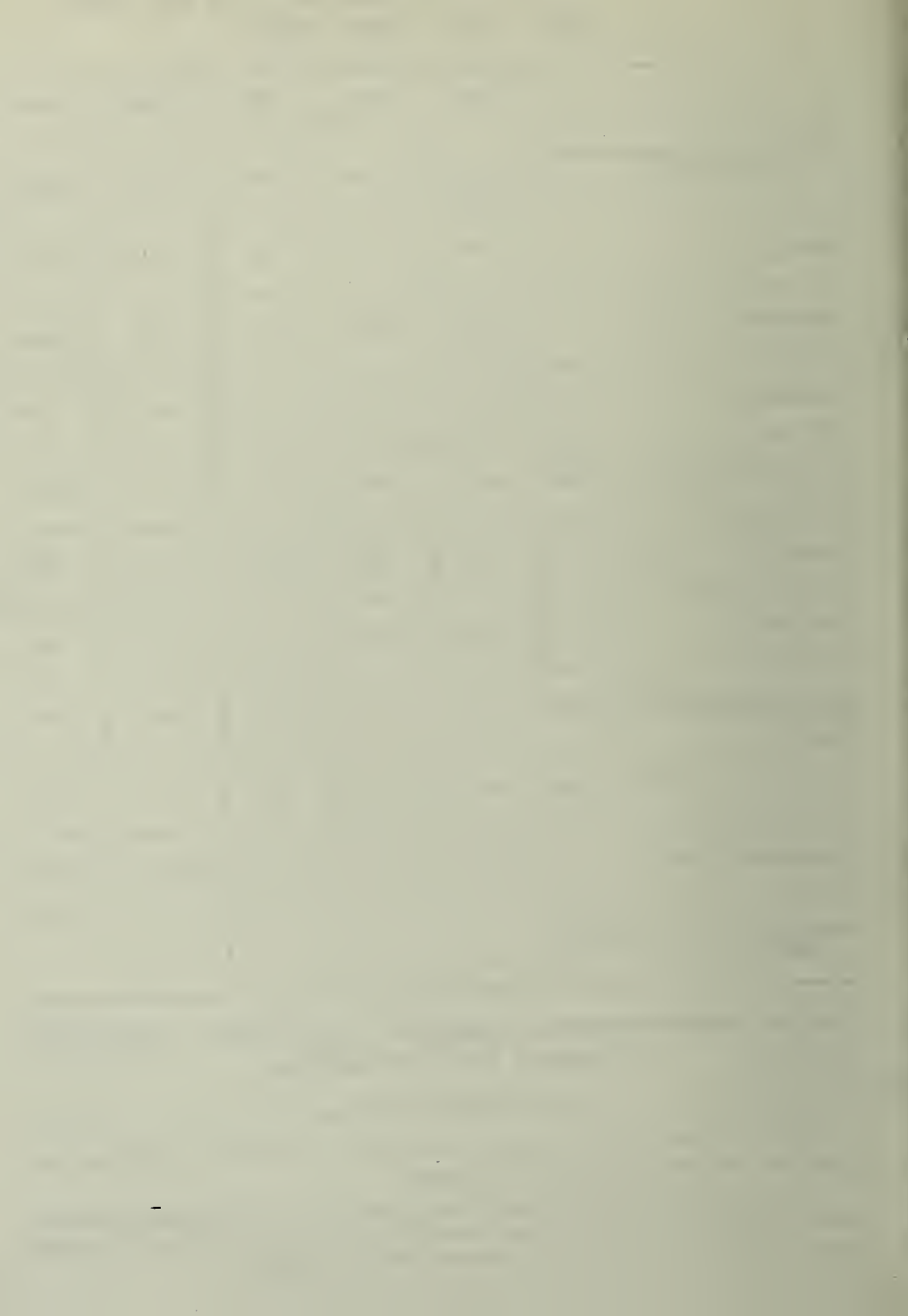
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure).	30,210	31,440	31,870	33,040	34,510
Births	428	436	473	445	530
Birth Rate	14.16	13.86	14.84	13.46	15.35
Still-births	12	14	20	14	20
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	14.4	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.9
Deaths	283	288	274	317	312
Death Rate	9.36	9.16	8.6	9.59	9.04
Death Rate (England & Wales)	12.3	11.8	11.7	12.1	12.4
Deaths of infants under 1 year	18	31	20	26	26
Infantile Death Rate	42.05	71.1	42.07	58.41	49.05
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales).	64	59	57	59	58

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Corporation make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Medical Officer of Health.



(B) MIDWIVES.

During the year the Midwives Act, 1936, came into force and the Kent County Council, as the controlling authority for Midwives, instituted in the latter part of the year, a scheme for the provision of salaried midwives throughout the County.

Three of these midwives are appointed for the Borough area. The scheme provides for a closer co-operation between the County Council and the local Maternity and Child Welfare Authority.

There are in addition two other midwives practising in the Borough.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town :—

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Market Street.	Maintained by the Council.
School Clinic, King Edward Avenue ...	} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street ...	
Venereal Clinic, The County Hospital ...	

In connection with the County Hospital there are Ophthalmic, Orthopædic, Neurological, X-Ray, Electrical, Urological, and Dental Clinics available for residents in the area of the Dartford Public Assistance Committee as out-patients.

Also at the Livingstone Hospital there are X-Ray and Electrical Clinics.

(D) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The following hospitals are situated in the district and are available for the residents. In addition to these, the facilities offered by the London hospitals, which are within a reasonable distance, are used by the inhabitants.

1. The County Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes, under the management of Kent County Council (Public Assistance Committee), available for persons resident in the area under the control of the Public Assistance Committee and by private patients from the same area. Extensions of this Hospital were commenced in 1937 and are still in progress.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts. During the year, the erection of a new block to accommodate Maternity cases was commenced.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases) under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Urban District, Crayford Urban District, and Swanscombe Urban District.

The extensions referred to in my two previous reports are now completed and the new buildings are occupied. The extensions comprise a new Administration Block and Nurses' Home of 56 beds, two wards of 24 beds each and two cubicle blocks of 12 beds each. This brings the total accommodation for patients up to 140 beds. New gate lodges and controlled entrance gates are now being built.

Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green. Negotiations are still in progress with the L.C.C. regarding the revision of the arrangements whereby cases of Small Pox are admitted into this Hospital.

(E) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i). INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii). GENERAL CASES.—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain a motor ambulance which is available for accidents day and night and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

During the year 1937, the following cases were dealt with by this ambulance :—

First Aid cases (of which 113 were road accidents).....	346
Sick removals to local hospitals	374
Sick removals to London hospitals and other places	72

The charges made for the use of the ambulance are as follows :—

To local hospitals 5/-

To London hospitals and other removals outside the District 9d. per mile (both journeys) with special terms for distances over 100 miles.

There is also a scheme whereby subscribers of a minimum of 1/- per year are entitled to the free use of the ambulance for removals to local hospitals, etc. and at 6d. per mile for longer journeys.

First aid duties are also carried out by members of the division at the local Cinemas, Football Grounds, etc., and road service during the summer months.

The ambulances of the Kent County Council Public Assistance Committee are also available, on payment of the scale of charges fixed by the Council, for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis :—

Diphtheria swabs	117
Tuberculosis sputa	110
Typhoid, including Widal test	10
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	1
Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk	8
Samples of Pasteurised Milk	6
Samples of Milk for T.B.	10
Water samples from Swimming Bath	2

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II, III and V.
Adopted 2nd, January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890
Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.
Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part II	}	Adopted 2nd April, 1909
Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part III	...	...
Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part IV...	...	...
Whole of Part V	...	...
Whole of Part VI	}	Adopted 19th March, 1909.
Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part VII	...	...
Section 90 in Part VIII	...	...
Section 95 in Part X	...	...
				Adopted 4th Jan., 1913

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts II, III, IV and V adopted 2nd December, 1925.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

BYE-LAWS.

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following :—

- Common Lodging Houses.
- Good Rule and Government.
- Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).
- Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
- Nuisances.
- Offensive Trades.
- Removal of Offensive Matter.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, Vans and Sheds.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

With the exception of isolated houses, the whole of the houses are connected to the Metropolitan Water Board's mains.

The supply is from chalk wells at Wilmington, Darenth, Southfleet and Green Street Green. These wells are sampled on every working day and give good bacteriological and chemical results. Southfleet and Green Street Green wells are protected by chloramination and standby chloramine equipment is held for immediate application at the other wells should any untoward condition become apparent.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No cases of pollution have been noticed or dealt with during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford. Their system of treatment is very satisfactory, and no complaints have been received regarding the outfall works during the year.

There are only 83 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. Over 99 % of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

There have been no particular extensions of the foul water sewers during the year, but extensive surface water sewerage works are being carried out in connection with the reconstruction of the main roads through the town and will greatly improve the surface water drainage of these areas.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The system is a water carriage one. In the more rural portions of the area, where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned :—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	60
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	23

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected weekly except in the centre of the town, where the collection is twice weekly.

During the first six months of the year part of the refuse was burnt at the destructor and part was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Heath Lane tip.

Owing to the fact that the destructor was inadequate for the disposal of the refuse and was in need of reconstruction, which could only be carried out at considerable expense, it was decided to close the destructor and dispose of the whole of the house refuse by controlled tipping and the destructor was closed down on July 17th.

An incinerator is being erected for disposal of diseased meat, etc.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following :—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Urinal at East Hill.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

During the year, a new Public Convenience for both sexes was opened at the junction of East Hill and the Brent.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1936 :—

	1936	1937
Men	9,344	9,944
Boys	554	375
Women	2,893	2,764
Girls	114	109
TOTAL ..	12,905	13,192

The open-air Swimming Bath in Burnham Road has a continuous heating and chlorination plant. Samples of the water are taken from time to time and show that the water is main ained in a very satisfactory state. An enlargement and re-construction of this Bath and the sanitary accommodation in connection therewith was commenced during the winter but was not completed at the time of this report.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

During the year the following steps have been taken by the Health Department and the Housing Superintendent with regard to the eradication of bed bugs.

No. of Council houses found to be infested	40
" " " " disinfested	40
No. of other houses found to be infested	14
" " " " disinfested by Council	7
" " " " " by Owners or tenants after advice given by Sanitary Inspector	7

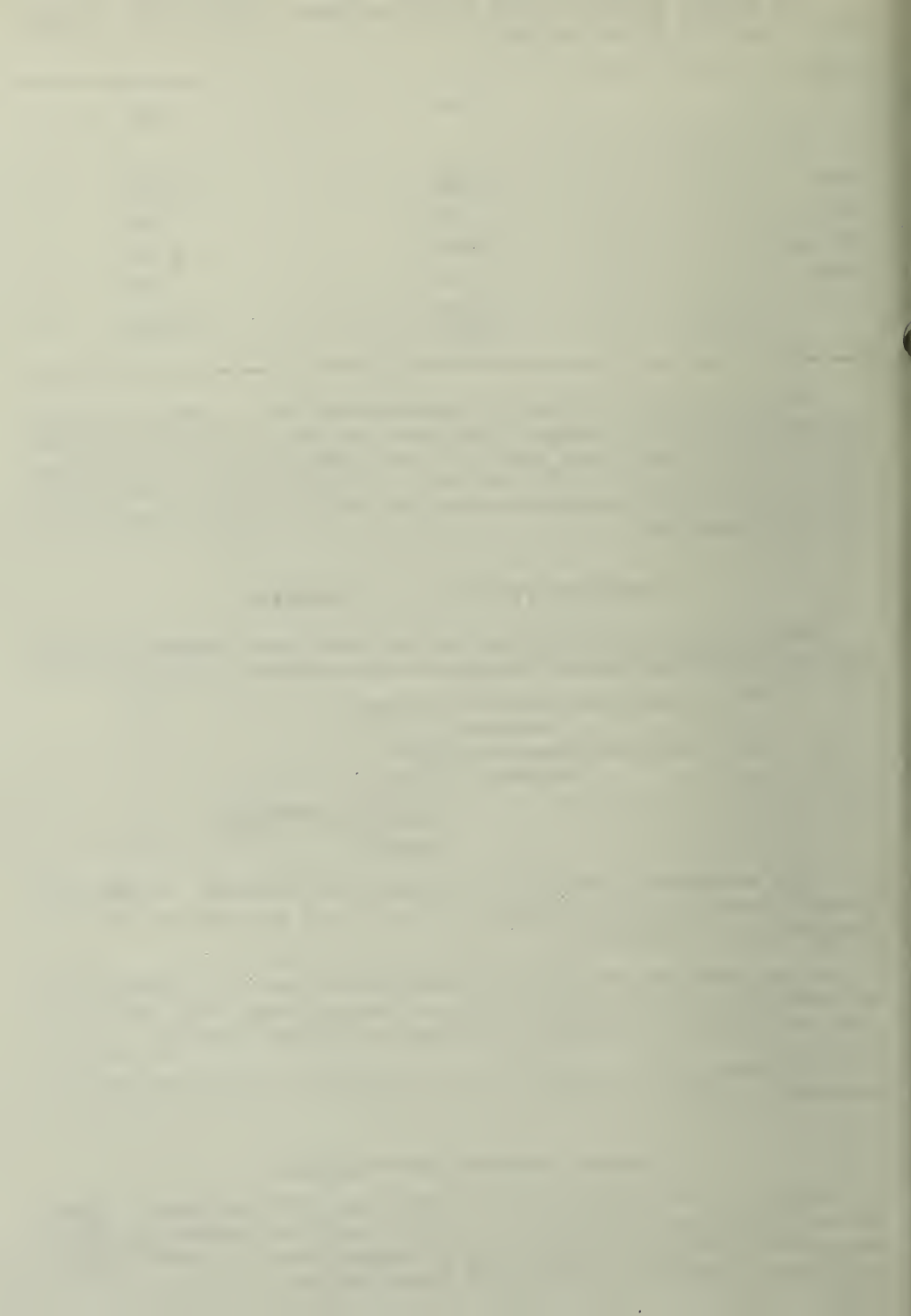
Slight infestations are dealt with by spraying with vermicides. In bad cases the walls are stripped and the skirtings, etc., loosened and the rooms are sealed and fumigated by vermicide blocks.

In cases where the new tenants for Council houses come from infested houses the furniture and effects are treated either at their old house or in the Council house on arrival, or in bad cases in both houses on different occasions.

The disinfestation is carried out by the Council's own men, and not by a contractor.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

There are two Central and nine Junior schools in the district. These are well lighted and ventilated, and the water supply and sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. The sanitary accommodation at St. Anselm's School was improved and partly re-constructed during the year.



PROPAGANDA.

The department is co-operating in the National Health Campaign and posters have been exhibited and leaflets distributed in connection therewith.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	None
(ii) By other bodies and persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	Houses	550

In addition 29 single houses have been converted into 58 flats.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made.	Houses 352.	Inspections	1144
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and the number of inspections made.	Houses 73.	Inspections	260
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			27
(4) Number of dwelling-houses under paragraph 2 (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation			69

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	319
---	-----

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	None
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a) By owners	...	None
(b) By local authority in default of Owners	...	None
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	...	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	None
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	27
(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	...	None

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit	None

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Overcrowding).

(a) (1). Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	19
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	19
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein Adults	131
Children	40
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	39
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases: Adults ...	237
Children	55

The following numbers of houses have been represented as unfit since the Housing Act, 1930, came into force :—

1930	.. ..	11 houses.
1931	.. ..	51 houses.
1932	.. ..	4 houses.
1933	.. ..	18 houses.
1935	.. ..	2 houses.
1937	.. ..	27 houses.

The following table shows the result of such action during the year :—

Premises.	No. of Houses	Date of Representation.	Action taken.	Remarks.
Manor Place 9.	1	2— 8—33	Demolition Order made 4—10—33.	Further action deferred.
Hadlow Place. Lowfield Street 1 to 7.	7	9—11—33	Demolition Order made 12—3—34.	Appeal lodged and heard June, 1934. Order confirmed. Houses void.
Darenth Road. 2 to 54.	27	24— 2—37	Demolition Order made 7—5—37.	

In addition to the houses set out in the table, 73 houses have been inspected during the year under the Housing Act, and notices regarding repairs, etc., have been served with regard thereto.

The following table shows the number of new houses built during the past ten years :—

				Built by Council.	Private Enterprise	Total
1928	...	...	...	56	112	168
1929	...	...	...	—	209	209
1930	...	...	...	14	266	280
1931	...	...	...	76	232	308
1932	...	...	...	181	170	351
1933	...	...	...	112	408	520
1934	...	...	...	—	499	499
1935	...	...	...	140	401	541
1936	...	...	...	20	635	655
1937	...	...	...	—	550	550
Totals				599	3482	4081

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The taking of samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Kent County Council, and the County Council being also the Authority under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts carries out the work under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences have been granted by the Corporation :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk—

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3

Pasteurised Milk—

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	6

Fourteen samples of Graded milks were taken during the year.

The examination of Graded milks and other bacteriological work in connection with food is carried out by the Kent County Council at the County Bacteriological Laboratory.

No legal action has had to be taken under the Meat Regulations, 1924. There is one registered slaughterhouse in the district, and the notification of the times of slaughtering has been very satisfactory. 221 inspections have been made during the year.

The amount of unsound food destroyed during the year was 16 cwts., 23 lbs., particulars of which are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 14 (exclusive of institutional cases) as compared with 20 in 1936, and is the lowest notified since 1932 and previously since 1924.

The facilities for immunisation, started in 1935, were continued throughout the year, and I am pleased to state that increasing use is being made of them.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified (exclusive of institutional cases) was 39 as compared with 53 in 1936, and is the lowest notified since 1926.

Of these cases 10 were nursed at home and 29 removed to hospital.

There were 2 return cases during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases were notified during the year.

MEASLES.

Measles is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, but the cases amongst children of school age are notified to the Department by the Head Teachers of Schools.

There were very few cases of Measles during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases are admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer was 37, being 11.217 per cent. of the total deaths as compared with :—

1936	...	48 deaths	14.19 per cent. of total deaths.
1935	...	48 "	17.39 " " " "
1934	...	34 "	11.8 " " " "
1933	...	33 "	11.66 " " " "
1932	...	49 "	17.3 " " " "
1931	...	27 "	10.97 " " " "

INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious diseases to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Disinfection is also carried out after death from tuberculosis and if requested after death from cancer.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	14	...	...	1	1	...	6	3	2	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	39	...	1	...	2	5	22	4	1	4	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	20	...	2	...	...	...	4	3	...	1	4	4	2
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	90	...	1	5	2	6	63	8	1	4	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	11	...	...	...	1	...	2	6	...	1	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Pneumonia	6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	19	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	7
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5—10	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
10—15	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
15—20	2	1	2	....	1	1	1	....
20—25	3	....	1	....	2	1	....	....
25—35	7	4	2	1	3	3	....	....
35—45	5	2	....	....	3	....	....	....
45—55	7	....	....	....	2	....	....	....
55—65	2	....	....	....	3	2	....	....
65 and upwards	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Totals	26	8	5	1	14	7	1	....

21 of the 40 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 9 cases notified previous to 1937 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to one of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number on Register at commencement of Year	130	69	27	34	260
Number on Register at end of Year	126	61	28	29	244

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(a) Children attending at beginning of 1937, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under								Totals
	3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	for each day
Tuesday	8	29	19	15	35	2	1	—	109
Thursday	—	—	2	—	23	64	39	21	149
Friday	7	20	17	14	36	1	—	—	95
Totals	15	49	38	29	94	67	40	21	353

(b) New entrants, ages at entry :—

	Under								Totals
	3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	for each day
Monday	82	17	10	5	1	—	1	1	117
Tuesday	99	14	16	7	12	—	—	—	148
Thursday	2	—	3	2	12	23	13	8	63
Friday	110	16	10	2	16	—	—	—	154
Totals	293	47	39	16	41	23	14	9	482

(c) Children attending at beginning of 1938, ages at beginning of year :—

	Under								Totals
	3 mos.	3-6 mos.	6-9 mos.	9-12 mos.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	for each day
Monday	11	20	21	17	25	1	—	—	95
Tuesday	2	28	18	18	41	4	—	—	111
Thursday	—	—	1	—	6	51	46	19	123
Friday	15	26	20	13	29	—	—	—	103
Totals	28	74	60	48	101	56	46	19	432

Number of mothers attended the Clinics, 842.

Total attendances of mothers, 10,050.

Of the number of infants registered 293 were under the age of three months on registration.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on register during year	...	...	...	...	238
Number of new cases	...	...	...	...	213
Number of Clinics held	...	...	...	...	51
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	...	718
Average attendance per clinic	...	...	...	...	14.07

The particulars of the 213 new cases who attended the Clinic during the year 1937 were as follows:—

Normal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Abnormal cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Cases showing other conditions requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Not pregnant and post natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31

Analysis of abnormal ante-natal cases:—

Malpresentation (breech)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Contracted pelvis:—								
General contraction	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Flat pelvis (One with premature rupture of membranes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sacral deformity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Toxæmias:—								
Severe vomiting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Albuminuria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hydramnios	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Placenta Prævia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature rupture of membranes (One with flat pelvis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Abortion (Two associated with retroversions)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Retroverted gravid uterus (Two with abortion)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Venereal disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fibroids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Other conditions requiring treatment (frequently more than one condition in same patient):—

Hernia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Valvular disease of heart	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pyorrhoea and caries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Varicose veins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phlebitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was held each month during the year. 37 new cases received advice and 102 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

MATERNITY HOME.

Negotiations are proceeding for the admission of cases into the County Hospital and the Livingstone Hospital. Financial assistance is to be given in necessitous cases.

PUERPERAL FEVER and PUERPERAL PYREXIA REGULATIONS 1926.

Arrangements have been made under these regulations for:—

- (a) The admission of cases requiring hospital treatment into the Isolation Hospital of the Joint Hospital Committee at Bow Arrow Lane and into the North Western Hospital of the London County Council.
- (b) The services of an obstetric consultant when required.
- (c) The Dartford District Nursing Association to undertake home nursing where hospital treatment is not necessary.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year. The two cases of Puerperal Fever and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified from the County Hospital.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

TREATMENT OF SQUINT.

Arrangements are in force for the treatment of squint in children under school age by the School Ophthalmic Surgeon. Two cases were referred for treatment during the year.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

During the year four children received treatment under the Kent County Council scheme for the orthopædic treatment of children under school age.

DENTAL TREATMENT TO MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

One child and one mother were granted assistance in accordance with the Council's Scheme for dental treatment during the year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year.

Children requiring treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum can be received into St. Margaret's Hospital by arrangement with the London County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925.

No action has had to be taken with regard to cases of Tuberculosis in persons connected with the milk trade.

SECTION 62 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925.

No action has been taken during the year with regard to compulsory removal of cases of Tuberculosis under this section.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Kent County Council is the Authority dealing with this group of diseases. A local Clinic is held by them at The County Hospital.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1937 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows :—

9,715 pints free.
919 pints half price.
205 lb. dried milk free.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1 and CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1932.

The main object of the above is to secure that any child under nine years of age maintained "for reward" shall be notified to the Local Authority in order that supervision of the home conditions and the health of the child can be carried out.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year	...	...	...	283
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year	...	...	...	20
Number of foster children on register at end of year	...	...	...	27

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year ;

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	604
Number of visits to infants under 1 year	...	...	...	2,028
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	960
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	3,287
Total visits	...	...	...	5,604

In addition to these visits the following have been paid :—

Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	159
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	8

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

The duties undertaken by the Voluntary Workers at the Child Welfare Clinics are those of keeping various registers, assisting in weighing the children and carry-

ing out the social side of the work. The Annual Baby Show and Mothers' Social Evening were organised by them and were, as in previous years, very successful events.

I would like to express my thanks, together with those of the Corporation, to the Voluntary Workers for their assistance and to the donors of prizes for the two social events.

Appended hereto are the following :—

- (1). Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2). Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1937 :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	133
In addition to the above 10 disinfections of verminous houses were carried out.								

HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Number of houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Notices re defects served on Owners :—								
Preliminary—Served 69 : Complied with 55: in hand, Dec. 31st	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Houses put in order during year including those dealt with under Section 19, Housing Act, 1930	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55

In addition to the notices complied with 20 notices were cancelled, the houses now being subject to a Demolition Order.

HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Overcrowding).

New cases found during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses measured	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Permitted numbers supplied for 377 houses.									

Work in connection with the prevention of overcrowding has necessitated 278 inspections and re-inspections during the year.

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 217 : complied with 220 : in hand, Dec. 31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

COMPLAINTS.

404 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water— New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1801
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
" " " " " " smoke—New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	527
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2371
Number of drains cleared by the Department	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210

Of the drains cleared by the department 60 were in connection with the Council houses and various other properties owned by the Corporation.

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	None
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	221

Licences were issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act to seven slaughtermen during the year.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1926

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale)	...	...	...	...	...	6
" (Retail)	...	...	...	...	...	45
(Including 14 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)						

The premises of 14 of the Registered Purveyors are situated outside the Borough.

Number of Cowsheds	...	6	...	Inspections	...	38
Number of Dairies	...	10	...	Inspections	...	89
Number of Milkshops	...	3	...	Inspections	...	10
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

The following licences have been granted by the Corporation:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Bottlers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	3

PASTEURISED MILK.

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	6

SAMPLES OF MILK.

During the year 14 samples of Graded Milk were taken (8 Tuberculin tested and 6 Pasteurised), one sample of Tuberculin tested milk did not comply with the prescribed conditions.

Ten samples of milk were taken for the detection of tuberculosis and all were negative.

The department has co-operated with the Kent County Council in ensuring a proper milk supply to the local schools.

The samples taken at the schools are taken by the County Council's own officers.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Meat and other Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	243
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	...	...	...	...	125
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	80
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	54

UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food destroyed during the year was 16cwt. 23lbs., made up as follows:—

BEEF.—8cwt. 3 qrs. (including one carcase affected with tuberculosis).

PORK.—2cwt. 16lbs. (including 2 carcasses and 5 pigs' heads affected with tuberculosis).

ORGANS.—1cwt. 14lbs. (including 5 beast livers, 3 pigs' plucks and 1 sheep's pluck).

FISH.—3cwt. 2qrs.

BACON.—1qr. 22lbs.

RABBITS.—16lbs.

TINNED GOODS.—11lbs.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed... ..	84	12	62	294	332
Number inspected	84	12	62	290	332
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	—	1	2
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis... ..	4·8	8·3	—	·34	·60
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	5
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis	1·2	8·3	—	—	2·1

No seizures of food were made during the year. The food destroyed was surrendered on request after inspection.

The mutual Insurance Schemes of the Dartford, Sevenoaks, and Rochester Cattle Markets is, as in previous years, of great assistance in dealing with the home-killed meat supply of the district. Under these schemes, on the payment of a premium by both buyer and seller compensation is granted, on the certificate of the Sanitary Inspector, for diseased carcasses or portions of carcasses.

LODGING HOUSES ETC.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register ...	...	1
Number of Houses let in lodgings on Register ...	...	2
Inspections ... ..	...	26

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of inspections made	209
-----------------------------------	-----	-----

Notices were served regarding contraventions. Particulars of these are set out in the following table:—

	Contraventions Found.	Complied With.
Statutory forms not exhibited ...	15	17
Young person hours	3	3
Sanitary accommodation: Insufficient	—	2
Defects in	4	3
Washing facilities insufficient ...	—	2
Other matters	1	1

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	12
---	-----	----

Nine of these are subject to annual renewal of permission, under Section 44, Public Health Act, 1925.

Number of Rag and Bone Dealers ... ..	...	3
„ „ Tanyards ... ..	...	1
„ „ Knackers' Yards ... ..	...	1
„ „ Inspections ... ..	...	137

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected ... ..	...	135
Inspections re Tents, Vans, and Sheds Bye-Laws ... ..	...	24
Inspections of Cinemas ... ..	...	4
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress ... ..	...	1,717

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

During the year 21 complaints were investigated and inspections were made of premises, etc. Advice is given with regard to dealing with these pests and in certain cases poison baits are laid down with good results. Where considered necessary the drains of the premises are smoke-tested and any defects dealt with. This was done in 9 cases.

Three warning letters were sent and one Statutory Notice was served and complied with during the year.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

During the year 17 observations have been taken of the smoke emitted by the chimneys in the various works. One smoke nuisance was remedied during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Lighting or Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broken sash cords replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Gulley fenders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Houses formerly cesspool drained connected to public sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Nuisance from cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains re-constructed (No. of houses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	234
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
New manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
W.C.'s reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your Obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspection	Defects found	Defects remedied
Factories (including Factory laundries)	49	2	3
Workshop (including Workshop laundries)	63	7	7
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises)	31	2	3
Total	143	11	13

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	1	1	...	...
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	4	4	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	(Insufficient	2	4	...
	Unsuitable or defective	6	6	...
	Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (S.101).	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	17	19	...	...

HOME WORK.

No. of Lists received 6. Inspections 7.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.										Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Joiners and Carpenters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Total										69

*There are also 9 Factory Bakehouses in the District.

